(c) when the policy is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Ministry of Steel has suggested to Ministry of Commerce, some amendments in the iron-ore export policy, with a view to conserve resources to build up the domestic steel industry, in August, 2006.

(c) A Committee of Secretaries (CoS) formed for considering the matter of restricting iron-ore exports has gone into the issue, in which Ministry of Steel has also expressed its views. The report has been submitted to the Government for appropriate decision.

Promotion of indigenous steel industry

1948. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are scarce resourcer with India's steel industry for producing quality products to meet our own requirements competing with the international standards;

(b) if so, the remedial steps Government propose to initiate in order to promote our indigenous steel industry;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to encourage production of finished steel goods within the country; and

(d) the details of quantity of finished steel goods that had been imported during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (c) The major raw material resources for making steel are-iron ore and coking coal. As far as the availability of iron-ore to the domestic steel industry is concerned, presently steel makers are not facing significant immediate problems with regard to availability of iron-ore. However, in the long run the iron ore availability to domestic steel industries is likely to suffer due to export of iron-ore. Presently more than 80% of coking coal requirement is met through imports due to non-availability of quality coking coal indigenously. Various companies are on the look out for strategic alliances for ensuring raw material (coking coal, iron-ore) supplies, according to their corporate strategies.

Entrepreneurs in the country are free to set up steel plants and downstream units of the capacities of their choice based on their commercial judgements. In a free market economy, Government acts only as a facilitator. The Government has taken several steps to increase the production of steel such as modernization and expansion of public sector steel plants and adoption of various policy measures to encourage creation of additional steel production capacity in the private sector.

(d) The details of import of finished steel during the last two years and the current financial year (April-September, 2006) are given in Statement.

Statement

Import of Finished steel

(Quantity in '000 tonnes)

Category	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (upto Sept' 06)
1	2	3	4
Non-Flat Products:			
Bars & Rods	128.6	325.4	170.0
Structural	66.4	99.0	39.4
Rly. Materials	2.1	0.3	1.2
Total Non-Flat Products:	197.1	424.7	210.6
Flat Products:			
Plates	423.1	791.9	488.8
HR Sheets	61.7	31.7	10.4
HRCoils/Skelp/Strips	816.8	1526.6	632.7
CR Coils/Sheets	287.3	487.2	271.7
GP/GC/Coated Sheets	105.8	134.1	77.1
Elec. Sheets	110.8	215.9	144.0
TMBP	0.2	1.9	0.5

1	2	3	4
Tin Plates	55.7	98.3	57.0
Pipes	28.8	60.0	4.5
Tin Free Steel	21.7	28.2	13.8
Total Flat Products:	1980.1	3375.8	1700.5
Total Fin. Steel (Non -Alloy):	2109.0	3800.5	1911.1
Alloy	184.4	310.1	332.2

(Soruce: Joint Plant Committee)

12.00 Noon

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (2005-06) of the Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, .FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under section 23 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986:

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi, for the year 2005-06, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts, ve Bureau. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T 5288/06]

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Burea. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5288/06]

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.)

I. Notification of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries.

II. Report and Accounts (2005-06) of the National Institute of Small Industry Extention Training, Hyderabad and related papers

III. Report and Account (2005-06) of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Chennai and related papers

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the table the following papers:

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Small Scale